

Brussels, 26 October 2015 (6 p.m. CET)

## National Bank of Belgium announces additional capital requirements for systemically important banks

For KBC: 0.5% in 2016, going up to 1.5% in 2018

*The National Bank of Belgium today announced its new capital buffers for Belgian systemically important banks. These new buffers will be introduced in phases starting from 2016 and are on top of the minimum capital requirements (Joint Capital Decision) that the ECB imposes every year.*

*The additional buffer for KBC will be 0.5% CET1 (phased in, under the Danish compromise) in 2016, and will gradually increase over a 3-year period, reaching 1.5% in 2018. It is in addition to the ECB minimum capital requirement for 2016 which will be announced in November 2015 (in 2015, this minimum requirement was 10.5% CET1 (fully loaded\*, under the Danish compromise)).*

**Johan Thijs, KBC Group CEO:** ‘Our national regulator’s decision clarifies for the group and our stakeholders the capital requirements KBC must meet. We feel comfortable with the size of the additional buffer that the National Bank is asking and that we had already factored in to our capital management models. As our capital position is currently very robust (16.7%\* CET1, fully loaded, under the Danish compromise) we can easily absorb this extra buffer and still stick to our strategic ambitions and planned pay-out ratio of at least 50%\*\*. That is a comforting signal to all stakeholders who put their trust in us.

We want to continue focusing on our strong fundamentals, which are our sound client-centric bank-insurance model, strong risk profile, and robust liquidity position, backed by a very solid and loyal client deposit base in our core markets in Belgium and Central Europe and a comfortable solvency level that gives us the scope to lend more to our clients and actively support the communities and local economies in which we operate. We will continue to ensure appropriate capital and liquidity levels within a strict risk framework.’

\*Capital ratio of KBC Group NV at the end of June 2015, including 2 billion euros remaining state aid (YES)

\*\* Subject to approval by the General Meeting of Shareholders of KBC Group

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\* This news item contains information that is subject to the transparency regulations for listed companies.

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